

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 21599 110509Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DRC-01 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4501

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21599

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 21599 VICE 27599)

USOECD

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJ: GERMAN MEMO ON PARTIAL U.S. APPROVAL OF GERMAN
COCOM REQUESTS FOR EXPORT OF MAGNETIC DISK PACKS
AND DISK CASSETTES

REFS: COCOM DOCS. (77) 731, 902, AND (78) 183, 184,221,
222, 226, 239, 255, 277 AND 316.

1. GERMAN DEL HAS ISSUED A MEMO WHICH REFERS TO THE RE-
FERENCED GERMAN EXCEPTION REQUESTS IN WHICH THE U.S. HAS
GIVEN ONLY PARTIAL APPROVALS FOR THE EXPORTS OF DISC
PACKS OR DISC CASSETTES. (COPIES HAVE BEEN SENT TO WA-
LINSKY, JAMES AND PRACHT.) SUMMARY OF MEMO IS AS S
FOLLOWS:

2. SUMMARY: SEVERAL MONTHS AGO U.S. HAVE BEGUN TO AP-
PROVE EXPORTS OF DISC PACKS AND DISC CASSETTES ONLY UP
TO MAXIMUM NUMBER OF 25 PER COMPUTER SYSTEM PER YEAR
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WITH JUSTIFICATION BEING REQUIRED FOR MORE THAN THIS
AMOUNT. GERMAN EXPERTS BELIEVE 25 DISC PACK OR CASSETTE
MAXIMUM IS UNREALISTIC AND ARBITRARY, SINCE IT TREATS
SMALL COMPUTER SYSTEMS IN SAME WAY AS LARGE ONES. NUM-
BER OF DRIVES WHICH A COMPUTER SYSTEM IS EQUIPPED DEPENDS
ON PROBLEMS WHICH THE COMPUTER SYSTEM HAS TO SOLVE. AN-
NUAL NEED FOR REPLACEMENT OF DISC PACKS DEPENDS ON SEVE-

RAL FACTORS: NUMBER OF INSTALLED DISC DRIVES, DATA VOLUME OF USERS, FREQUENCY OF USE, TYPE OF DATA PROTECTION, AND CAPACITY OF DISC PACKS, AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS ARE DIFFERENT NOT ONLY IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES OR ADMINISTRATIONS BUT EVEN BETWEEN USERS WITHIN SAME BRANCH. (GERMANS HAVE PROVIDED TABLE OUTLINING ANNUAL REPLACEMENT NEEDS IN DIFFERENT SECTORS.) MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ESTABLISHING ANNUAL REPLACEMENT NEEDS IS NUMBER OF DRIVES WITH WHICH A COMPUTER SYSTEM IS EQUIPPED, AND WAS USED IN U.S. AS GUIDING BASIS IN PRESENTING COCOM REQUESTS, E.G., (77) 127, 318 AND 945. IT IS THEREFORE NOT UNDERSTANDABLE WHY U.S. APPLIES A DIFFERENT STANDARD -- A LIMITATION OF 2 PER COMPUTER SYSTEM - TO THE GERMAN REQUESTS. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. APPROVE THE BALANCE OF THE EXPORTS IN THE REFERENCED CASES, END SUMMARY.

3. DURING PAST SIX MONTHS U.S. HAS BEEN CRITICIZED IN COMMITTEE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BY GERMAN, DUTCH, AND OTHER DELEGATIONS FOR THE "ARBITRARINESS" OF THE 25 DISC PACKS AND CASSETTE LIMITATION. THE OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY THE FACT THAT THE U.S. POSITION MAKES NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND IS NOT SUPPORTED BY ANY EXPLANATION OF WHY THE U.S. BELIEVES THE 25 PACK OR CASSETTE LIMITATION IS REASONABLE IN ALL CASES.
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4. ACTION REQUESTED: REVIEW OF U.S. POSITION REGARDING THE DISC PACK AND CASSETTE LIMITATION AND INFORMATION FOR RESPONDING TO THE GERMAN MEMO AS WELL AS RECONSIDERATION OF REFERENCED GERMAN EXCEPTION REQUESTS IN LIGHT OF GERMAN MEMO.
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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, MAGNETIC TAPE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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